

## The Future of the Marsh



Federal, state and local agencies, duck clubs and other private landowners are developing a comprehensive plan to protect and enhance wildlife values and water quality in the Suisun Marsh.

The Suisun Marsh plan is intended to enhance habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, improve levees, restore tidal marshes and other ecosystems, and improve water quality.

More information on the planning effort is available at:

<http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/suisunmarsh/charter>



## Where is Suisun Marsh?

Suisun Marsh is primarily located in southern Solano County, between San Francisco and Sacramento, about 35 miles from each. The marsh is bordered on the east by the Montezuma Hills, on the south by Suisun Bay, on the west by Interstate 680, and on the north by State Highway 12, Fairfield, and Suisun City.



Rush Ranch has three marked loop trails, each approximately two miles long. It is excellent for bird watching and seeing wildflowers in bloom.

Grizzly Island Wildlife Area offers opportunities such as nature photography, sightseeing, waterfowl and pheasant hunting, fishing, and boating.



Photos provided by Angelo Garcia, Jr. (DWR) and USFWS

## Suisun Marsh

### Discovering Northern California's Most Critical Wetland



## Suisun Marsh Charter Group



## *What is Suisun Marsh?*

The largest brackish (freshwater and saltwater) wetland in the western United States, Suisun Marsh is a stunning 116,000-acre expanse of water, tule flats and rolling hills between San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

The lands and waters of this unique ecosystem are home to a wide variety of plants, fish and wildlife that depend upon careful balancing of fresh and saline waters for their survival. And because it is part of the Bay-Delta estuary, Suisun Marsh's water quality affects and is affected by water diversions that supply millions of California households, farms, and businesses.



## *What makes Suisun Marsh so unique?*



Suisun Marsh serves as the resting and feeding ground for millions of waterfowl migrating on the Pacific Flyway. It provides essential habitat for more than 221 bird species, 45 mammal species (including the salt marsh harvest mouse, an endangered species), 16 different reptilian and amphibian species and more than 40 fish species. The marsh supports sensitive plants, such as the Suisun thistle, which is a marsh endemic found nowhere else on earth.

Among the other wildlife you might see in Suisun Marsh are otters, a variety of raptors such as red-tailed hawks and northern harriers, waterfowl and shorebirds, and even one of California's largest herds of tule elk.



## *How can you visit Suisun Marsh?*



Thousands see Suisun Marsh every day, driving along Interstate 680 between Benicia and Cordelia. The freeway hugs the western edge of the marsh, providing ever-changing panoramas of wildlife and waterways. Others see Suisun Marsh on Amtrak trains that cross the western side of the marsh between Martinez and Suisun City.

The best way to see the marsh close-up by car is along Grizzly Island Road, which meanders through the heart of Suisun Marsh, providing access to Rush Ranch, operated by The Solano Land Trust, and the state-owned Grizzly Island Wildlife Area.

Boaters can explore the Marsh's winding sloughs either from Suisun Bay or from a marina in Suisun City.